



ALL THE NOOS, PRINT TO FIT: The Camping area for the May 1-2 and the 15-16 climbs will be at the Idyllwild State Park unless the leader notifies you otherwise; Maris Valkass will substitute for R. Mundwiler as asst. for the May 15-16 climb. Both are @ Tahquitz. VS THE FIRST RAPPEL: a girl, born 3 April 1982 to Betty & Cliff Cameron. Mother and daughter are fine; we have no word on the father. MG

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A newsheet published by and for the Ski Mountaineers and the Rock Climbing Sections of the Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter since 1938. Send subscriptions and address changes to Dove Menkes, 2530 Coventry Circle, Fullerton, CA 92633. \$4.00 per year due in Oct.

### RCS STUDENT HAS CLASS

During the practice of upper belays and signals on Split Rock, Stephen Pay demonstrated his alertness and skill in belaying by stopping a fall which could have resulted in a serious injury.

A student whom Stephen was belaying had just finished climbing the chimney. After climbing out, the student started to cross over the crack to the near side, lost balance, and fell back into the chimney.

Fortunately the climb was not 'finished' in that the off-belay signal had not been given, and Stephen, still belaying, was able to stop the fall in about five feet. Except for a good scare and some hurt pride, everything turned out all right. Well done, Stephen!

MV

### SMS PEAR LAKE HUT TOUR - FEB. 6-7, 1982

At the final count, 9 skiers met at Wolverton Meadows and in good style and time followed the beaten path to the ever popular Pear Lake Hut.

Just prior to departure from L.A., a careful reading of the Park Service instructions revealed that hut visitors must now bring their own fuel, in the form of propane tanks, for the cooking stove and lanterns. Heating oil is still provided, but that also has a story. Formerly, the 500 gallons were flown in by helicopter, a quick flight, transportation cost about \$200. Now, a new policy allows helicopters in the backcountry only in emergency. Therefore, the oil went in via mules at a cost of \$800! The airways are quiet but the trails are now polluted.

Fortunately, on this trip the trail was deeply covered by snow, variable in the sun, and powder on north facing slopes. Saturday afternoon was spent yo-yoing the hill above the hut, plus some more after the moon came up. On Sunday most everyone climbed Winter Alta and all enjoyed a great view and some reasonable powder on the way down.

During the ski back to the cars, the only excitement came when a wild grapefruit escaped from Jean-Phillippe's pack and tried to run down this reporter. On the Spring trip, all grapefruits must be secured by safety straps!

Regarding the Spring trip, April 24-26, our reservation has been confirmed, and if you want to go, send \$6.00 (nonrefundable) without delay to Chuck Wilts. The propane tax will be about \$1 more.

ARE YOU ON BARBARA'S LIST? MG

Even without much more precipitation, the already-above-normal snow-pack in the Sierra should assure adequate snow for a long ski touring season. This year, additional opportunities to visit favorite ski touring areas or discover new ones are offered by Alpine Ski Touring Committee trips appearing in the March-June 1982 Angeles Chapter Schedule. Most SMS'ers using alpine ski touring equipment who qualified for membership prior to 1980 (or have appropriate SMS Qualified Leader reference) can automatically be added to the ASTC "Qualified Skiers List" by contacting John Wedberg, 1374 Stradella Road, Los Angeles, CA 90077. Happy ski touring to all! BL

### KNEE LEASHES & OTHER KNEE THINGS FOR THE KINKY SKIER

The evolution (sometimes revolution) in ski mountaineering gear is continuing to blast along like a wild avalanche. Almost every new issue of Outside or Powder contains a new "state of the art" answer on how best to slide up or down the snowy mountains. Not too long ago we were lucky to be able to find a touring binding and some skins. (to P.6)

MUGELNOOS STAFF

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NEXT ISSUE: May 18, 1982  
DEADLINE: Wednesday, May 12, 1982

CALENDAR

April 24, Big Rock, Lees/Yount  
April 24-26, Pear Lake, Wilts/  
Yamagata  
May 1-2, Tahquitz, Korbut-Weberg,  
May 1-2, Glass Mtn, Crandall  
May 8-9, San Joaquin Mtn, Van Dalsem  
May 15-16, Tahquitz, Crandall  
May 15-16, Lamarck Col, Goebel  
May 18, MUGELNOOS Meeting, Host: RCS

FOR SALE

New Rossignol X-C skis. 210 cm.  
\$40. Call Tammy, 213-671-8558  
\*\*\*\*\*

Set of new Eiger bongos, #'s 5-10.  
Set of new Campbell wedges, #'s 4-7.  
Call Robert, 213-874-0724 (9 days),  
or 213-660-8035 (evenings).

NEW SKI MOUNTAINEER

Andrew H. Sawyer  
500 "N" St., #1403  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-442-4215

IN WILDEST TIBET

The Angeles Chapter 7th Annual Mountaineering Gala is slated for Friday May 7, and Saturday May 8 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, 4401 West 8th Street, LA, at 8pm. Tickets \$8 each, specify Friday or Saturday preference. Send SASE to Gale, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter, 2410 Beverly Blvd., LA 90057. Galen Rowell will describe his travels through Tibet during 1981. Featuring an ascent to the North Col of Everest, photos of Namche Barwa, the highest unclimbed peak in the world, and an ascent of Anyemagen, a mountain once thought to be higher than Everest. This presentation will also provide a unique look into inner Tibet under Chinese rule. Don't miss it!

ANOTHER SMS BY-LAWS CHANGE?

As already pointed out in a recent issue of Mugelnoos, one of the purposes listed in the by-laws of the SMS is to "schedule and lead Alpine ski tours." Therefore, it would be contrary to the SMS by-laws to ban Alpine ski touring equipment from SMS tours (even though it has been done already in the recent past --see schedule #223). Such action would require a vote by ballot by the entire SMS membership to change the purpose of the by-laws to eliminate the word "alpine." BL

NEW ADDRESS: Ruth Carter, 1650 'B'  
91748. 213-965-1972.

GEORGE HARR GRANDFATHERED IN The SMS wants to congratulate George Harr on receiving a much deserved & Long awaited "E" rating from the Safety Committee. George began climbing and skiing in the 1940's and leading trips for the Sierra Club in the 1950's. In 1948 George led a private trip into Canada with Chuck & Ellen Wilts and Ray Van Aken up the Athabasca Glacier. In 1952 he climbed the Mitteleggi Ridge on the Eiger and down the west face. George assisted on BMTC snow camp trainings in the late 1950's and was involved as assistant leader on a 1950 Mt. Whitney rescue effort in which the rescue party made a 1st descent of the SW face. George is past chair of the SMS and has made many winter climbs in the Palisades, Minarets, Duck Pass and Pear Lake. We are very happy to have this renewed recognition of one of our most experienced leaders. Plan to see George's slide show of his 40 years of experience at a future SMS meeting. JVD

SKI MOUNTAINEERS ELECTION RESULTS

The Elections Committee, Ellen and Chuck Wilts, report the following information on the election for the Ski Mountaineers Central Committee. Out of 81 eligible Ski Mountaineers they found 47 ballots were valid & counted. Two ballots were invalid (no name and the address was unknown). The Central Committee for 1982-83 will have two new members and four incumbents (\*). Lloyd Balsam, Kath Crandall, Andy Fried, Mark Goebel, Sam Roberts, Jackie Van Dalsem. A special thanks to all the nominees for their interest in the Ski Mountaineers and for agreeing to serve on the Central Committee if elected. EW & CW

ICE CLIMBER LIVES ON HAZARD!

The following individual is looking for climbers to do ice, rock and snow climbing. He has a number of first ascents in Europe. Michael Kulig, 8602 Hazard, Midway City, California 92655 LR

NEW RCS MEMBER

While home recuperating from a fall Bob Caswell can have the pleasure of becoming a member. It might be a first for this type of vote-in. His address and telephone: 207 Laurelwood, Placentia, CA 92670. 714-528-3531. LR

NEW RCS ADDRESS

Mark Cole  
Box 10031  
Marina del Rey, CA 90291  
213-391-5555 MK

TAHQUITZ

Weather conditions may make it necessary to move the May 1-2 Tahquitz climb to another location. Call the leader on Wed or Thur before the trip. LR

For all of you who know Bob Caswell (714-528-3531) and Jim Sharpsteen (213-335-8875), I am sure a call or visit will be appreciated while they are home recuperating. LR

Greenport Ave., Rowland Heights, CA

THE BALDY REPORT

The month of February was fairly productive from the standpoint of spring skiing, mostly above the 8500' level. One Saturday it was possible to ski all the way from the summit to the car on good corn snow. The final two weekends in February the warm weather receded the snowline to just above the ski hut; great skiing was had between the hut and summit, however. The best runs were on the extreme west side of the bowl, except for the lower portions which were chopped up badly by Band Marching Training Course ice axe practice.

The first weekend in March was documented in the last issue (ski races). The second weekend it was storming, and continued so until the following Thursday; Friday's sunshine was not enough to consolidate the 4-5' of cement-like snow which blanketed the mountain by the third weekend. "Skiing" was not the proper description of what ensued on March 20: unskiable, heavy crud prevented executing even a single turn from the hut to the car (kicked turns all the way down).. Trying the upper slopes would have been futile. The month of March on Baldy was closed out on the 27th--28th with a few good runs below the Devils Backbone on Saturday only. Sunday dawned with a whiteout and a new storm moving in, so it was one tentative run through the sugarpines west of the hut and then down to the car, skiing over foggy, icy trail, removing skis on a couple of the more ridiculous spots.

April greeted our Baldy watchers with the heaviest snowpack this time of year since the record in 1978. The storm during the week made the snow a little hard to handle on Saturday, April 3, but several skiers got a go-go run down the middle of the backbone, nonetheless. Sunday, April 4, broke sunny and warm, and four runs were taken: the west bowl, mid-bowl, and two on the Backbone. Corn snow had finally returned to Baldy! Two experts on alpine equipment were witnessed coming down the 45° chute between the pinnacles at the east end of the bowl! (Same chute shown in the old Mugelhupt movies). Also, a loner on nordics was seen telemarking down the bowl, but each time he knelt on one knee the tails of his skinnies would submerge in the soft snow and he would fall. I guess they would call this "telesitzing."

Baldy should stay good for another several weeks, so any alpine skier interested in giving it a shot for one day or staying in the hut for a weekend of skiing should contact this reporter at 472-6768.

JW

## RCS PROFICIENCY CARD ROSTER

The new Proficiency Card roster has been born. There are 99 Proficiency Card holders--48 new ones who completed this year's course, 46 renewals and 5 experienced climbers who recently asked to climb with us and were cleared by the Safety Chair or signed off at practice climbs. With 67 active members, the RCS has a total official active "climbership" of 166!

The tally of the past year's (April-March) climbing days for renewal cardholders revealed that several nonmembers rivaled members in total days:

Bob Caswell (now a member)	27 days	Jim Friedberg	15 days
Liz Berger	25 days	Becky Levine	15 days
Pat Wallen	23 days	Jon Nolte	15 days
Alois Smrz	23 days	Mark Pomerantz	15 days
Ken Lee	21 days	Ijen Han	14 days
Sheila Szymanski	21 days	Mary Gygax	13 days
Phil Thomas	21 days		

There were another 69 people who climbed fewer than 4 days with the Section during the year or had never had Proficiency Cards and thus were not eligible for the roster. It is likely that the policy of more carefully restricting climbing with the RCS to members, members' guests, and proficiency card holders will cut the number of climbers occasionally attending climbs.

MK

## NEXT RCS SAFETY TEST - MAY 9th

Proficiency Card holders interested in becoming members should contact LeRoy Russ for a reservation and location information. This is also an opportunity for students who did not complete their proficiency card to do so. Experienced climbers may take the test to obtain a proficiency card enabling them to climb with the Section.

The following is a partial list of those individuals I am encouraging to take the safety test and become members: Bill Atkinson, Scott Bailey, Elizabeth Berger, Jane Clark, Jim Friedberg, Charlie Gonzalez, Flavia Gullet, Mary Gygax, Ijen Han, Ken Lee, Beckey Levine, Jon Nolte, Mark Pomerantz, & Sheila Szymanski. If you have already taken the Safety Test, please complete the membership requirements. CONTACT LeROY RUSS FOR RESERVATION REGARDLESS OF YOUR INTEREST. 213-258-1546.

LR

BIG ROCK

Even with the schedule confusion, the 27th versus the 28th, the actual day, Sunday, May 28th, found 30 people--12 from this year's student group and 18 members and others--climbing under threatening weather. The Trough and African Flake took the brunt of the climbing activity. In addition to our group, two other groups were having student training. Big Rock truly had to be Big to accommodate all of us. This being many students' first introduction to multi-pitch climbing, several interesting comments were muttered. Unfortunately some students had a long wait before getting on a rope. Please accept the leader's apologies. And thanks to those who acted as rope leaders. Best Dressed: Dick Mundweiler for his uncoordinated shirt and pants. LR

FOSSIL FALLS

After four days of continuous rain, the skies cleared enough to make the Fossil Falls trip a go. Thirty-nine students boarded the bus for a laid-back trip enriched with cheese, crackers, almonds and selected wines provided by wine captain Mike Mulry, training cochairman and trip conductor. Jim Sharpsteen was unable to make the trip because of illness, but the excellent bus accommodations were all his work. One determined student (Kay Emerick) missed the bus but drove to Fossil Falls. A dinner stop was made at Scandia of Lancaster, Carl's Jr., and everyone returned to the bus for a change.

Saturday morning greeted us with frost and a quick-rising bright sun. The weather god fortunately smiled on us. All the rappels and climb anchors were set up by the students as an extension of their training and checked out by an RCS member. The usual climbs were attempted, with the usual rate of success and failure. Some students demonstrated an impressive array of skills and techniques, not to mention determination. This year the group was treated to a Tyrolean traverse rigged by RCS members David Busdeicker and Kent Withers. The last time the traverse was rigged was by Dick DeRusha about 6 or 7 years ago, if my memory serves me correctly.

On Saturday night there was mulled wine prepared by Margo Koss and helpers. Ellen and Chuck Wilts taught the other helpers about the fine points of wine tasting, supervising the approval of each bottle before it was added to the collection. Somehow capacity fits somewhere in the tasting. After dinner a roaring campfire was started without the benefit of tires, except the one furtively thrown on by a nameless member (not me). An honorary member was noted to have a gleam in his eye when adding wood to the fire. I personally observed hair sticking up like horns on each side of his head. Conclusions are up to you. The campfire was enjoyed until the wee hours of Sunday morning. Sunday with continuing sunshine, was spent duplicating Saturday's efforts. Guts Award: Teresa Casacky for her grunting ascent of the overhang. Best Dressed Award: Tom Wirt for his polyster plaid slacks.

Note: The climbs at Fossil Falls are harder than those at Mt. Rubidoux or Stoney on the whole. Students not completing these climbs shouldn't be discouraged, because these climbs are good indicators of the practicing still to be done.

The trip leader thanks everyone, particularly the members and other experienced climbers for their assistance in making the trip an enjoyable one for the students. LR

\*\*\*\*\*Reminer! Reminder! RCS STUDENTS Reminder! Reminder!\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*If you have not done so, please return your questionnaire--your \*\*  
\*\*input helps us improve the course. Please read your information \*\*  
\*\*sheet. It contains essential procedure and trip information. \*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

SUMMARY OF APRIL 1, 1982 SNOWSURVEYS

The April--September snowmelt runoff preliminary forecasts are in for the Mono Basin and Owens Valley. Overall, snowmelt runoff is expected to be at least 123% normal for the Owens Valley and Mono Basins combined. These measurements were made prior to the April storms, so final forecasts for the Owens Valley and western Sierra will hopefully appear in the next issue of the Mugelnoos. Snow course readings taken between March 23 and March 30 are: Mammoth, 138%; Rock Creek, 150%; Bishop Pass, 138%; Bishop Lake, 147%; Piute Pass, 137%; Loch Leven, 150%; North Lake, 131%; Big Pine Creek, 126%; Bullfrog Lake, 159%; Vidette Meadow, 148%; Cottonwood Creek, 97%. So, skiers can expect a good, long season, and climbers should plan on high water. RJS & DWP

MAY MUGELNOOS PROGRAM

At the May Mugelnoos meeting we will show an extraordinary mountaineering film which shows R. Sorgato's climb of the West Peak of Lavaredo in the Dolomites. The film, entitled Abyss was shot on location and depicts Sorgato's fall of over 140' over a rock overhang, on one of the most difficult climbs in the Alps. After being given up for lost, & his death announced in the press, he rescued himself by climbing hand over hand while dangling in space. VS



## BOLTS

Bolts are one of the most widely used, yet poorly understood pieces of climbing equipment in use today. This is due to the fact that most people have neither placed bolts nor been made aware of the bolt's limitations.. Also, once a bolt is in place, it is very difficult to determine how reliable it is. Critical inspection, however, can tell a great deal about a bolt's condition.

There are several types of bolts used for climbing. The most common type in use locally is the Rawl 1"x $\frac{1}{2}$ " compression bolt. The Rawl bolt will be either a button head or a screw top. It is not made for climbing (rather it is a masonry bolt for construction use). There is no quality control in its manufacture; in the past entire batches of Rawl bolts have failed, many at loads under 200 lbs. For this reason many experts suggest using bolts from different batches or mixing button heads and screw tops at belay sites where more than one bolt is being used. In general, the button head Rawls appear to be more reliable statistically than screw tops.

Other bolts in use for climbing are the Red Head and Star varieties. The Red Head is a screw top bolt. When in the rock look for a generally longer threaded section than the Rawl. The Star bolt is essentially a nail in sleeve affair. Look for a flat head and often a raised star. Both of these bolts are expansion bolts. While expansion bolts tend to be more resistant to outward pulls than compression bolts, they also tend to have a lower shear factor. For climbing purposes it appears that resistance to perpendicular loading (shear strength) is of more importance than outward pull resistance.

In soft rock, such as sandstone, a compression bolt will often tend to erode the bolt hole rather than compress while being driven. In this situation an expansion anchor is preferable. Most climbers will use 3/8" Red Head in this situation. Quarter-inch ( $\frac{1}{4}$ " ) bolts are not ideally suited to soft rock and probably should not be used. For example, a perpendicular loading of a small diameter bolt in soft rock will tend to erode the rock on the lee side of the load. This can greatly increase the chance of the bolt pulling out (or cause the bolt to bend) and impair the shear strength considerably.

Some climbers have been experimenting with different types of bolts lately. In theory, several appear to be promising. Until these bolts have been in place for a number of years, however, it can not be said for sure how reliable they are.

While defective bolts account for some bolt failures, equally culpable are bolts that stick out too far due to shallow holes and overdriving. Loading shallow-holed bolts ("spinners") can create undue torque on the bolt causing a scenario similar to that described above. Overdriven bolts are bolts that have "bottomed out" while being driven. Continued hammering on the bolt to "make it go all the way in" will only distort the bolt and cause metal fatigue through the phenomena of metal crystallization. This is somewhat analogous to the work hardening that some homemade aluminum undergo (see subsequent discussion).

The hanger on the bolt is a separate entity and also prone to failure. Ed Leeper cites three major causes of hanger failure: (1) The use of mechanical belays (i.e., belay plates); (2) Distortion of the hanger base plate (due to overdriving of the bolt); (3) Intentional damage. What to look for: hangers that are distorted or have hammer marks should be held suspect. Leeper states, "No commercially made hanger will be distorted in normal use--including long time use or falls. Hairline cracks, especially near the bolt head, are visible under close scrutiny. Some hangers crack near the bottom of the eye. Cracks often show as rust marks.

Hangers will typically be one of three types: Leeper, SMC, or homemade varieties. Leeper's are the most reliable. They are not plated (plating can structurally alter the metal), and are not made of hard steel (which tends to crack more easily). SMC hangers are less reliable. Cracks often occur near the top or bottom of the eye. The older plated SMC hangers are very common and are the most prone to crack. The newer black anodized SMC hangers have not been around long enough for many conclusions to be made regarding their reliability. The best bet is to visually inspect all SMC hangers, hold them suspect, and use only Leeper hangers on new routes.

Homemade hangers are usually made from "L" stock aluminum of various types. Generally these hangers appear to be susceptible to "work hardening." The hangers will often distort with repeated falls until the metal has undergone enough molecular crystallization and resultant hardening to allow them to break. Many popular routes at Joshua Tree and Suicide Rock have homemade hangers on them. Generally the life of such hangers seems to depend upon the number and severity of falls sustained.



BOLTS, continued from page three . . .

Since bolts are not as "bombproof" as we all once thought, we should approach them with caution. A stiff tug on a bolt with a quick-draw may be the best method of testing a bolt. NEVER hit a bolt with a hammer! Single bolts, even if well placed, may not be reliable. A long runout on a single bolt may be risking a great deal. But the addition of bolts to existing routes (except for belay anchors) is never justified unless a bolt needs replacing. Not every route is for everybody. Additional knowledge about bolts will allow a climber to appraise the risks accordingly. Still, the greatest margin of safety available to the climber is his or her mental and physical preparedness, not the protection system.

The author and others are now of the opinion that the double bolt belay anchor is not safe. There is a lot to be said for triple bolt anchors. After all, a well-placed nut can be a lot safer than a bolt. How many hanging belays off of only two nuts have you made lately?

(Major parts of this article have been reprinted with the permission of Rock & Ice Mountain Supply, Fullerton, California, and originally appeared in their newsletter.)

Knee leashes, cont. from p. 1.

RV

The right ski was the least of our worries (ed. joke: because the left ski went off & formed the ASTC). Now, the possibilities are almost unlimited, and the "well Equiped and well dressed" ski mountaineer can stand proudly alongside his plastic-nylon-downhill-lift-assisted brethren.

The purpose of this essay is not to promote equipment freaks, but to point out two items of possible interest to the skiing readership as an aid to their knowledge and enjoyment of the sport. The first is from the "mad scientist" of back country skiing, Raul Pamer. He has recently published, Alpine/Nordic, The Journal of Unconventional Skiing, a magazine entirely devoted to backcountry skiing, or whatever name you want to call it. Ramer came up with over 20. It contains both his catalog of innovative equipment (knee leashes), plus a wealth of information in 80 pages of articles and photographs on avalanche information, beacons, climbing skins, chili, backcountry ski evaluations, extreme skiing, and touring in Europe, Mt. Shasta, Colorado, Bandini Mtn., and lots of Ramer humor and opinions. For a copy, send \$4.95 to Alpine Research, Inc., 765 Indian Peaks Rd., Golden, CO 80403.

The next item is for those of you who ski or contemplate skiing on the skiiny broads. A key item to success is a torsionally stiff boot which has been aided in part by heel locators. Although locators do help to reduce boot toe pressure, they are only effective when the heel is down, and sometimes the spurs fall outside the locator even with stiff boots. Thus the better bear trap was born. The Voilé Binding. It is a very simple system. A plate of longitudinally flexible but torsionally rigid plastic fits under any 75 pin binding and extends the length of the boot sole. The boot goes in the pins (ed. note: presumably all 75 of them), and the plastic plate latches to the boot heel via a shock-corded heel catch. There is an adjustable heel plate which keeps the boot in place on the plastic strip. Lateral movement is further reduced via a V-shaped wedge screwed to the ski which mates to a cutout at the rear of the plastic plate.

I recently mounted the Voilé on my skis, and have found that they significantly increased the torsional stiffness of my boots. Edge control was greatly improved, wear and tear on the boot pin holes was eliminated, and the lug soles remained free of snow. The Voilé is available at Sport Chalet, or from the manufacturer: Wasatch Mountaineering, 920 W. South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84104. Cost is \$32.90.

MG

THE MUGELNOOS

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